

61 W-X-Lys-Leu-Lys-Asp-Phe-Arg-Val-Tyr-Phe-
62 Arg-Glu-Gly-Arg-Asp-Gln-Leu-Trp-Lys-Gly-
63 Pro-Gly-Glu-Leu-Leu-Trp-Lys-Gly-Glu-Gly-
64 Ala-Val-Leu-Val-Lys-Val-Gly-Y-Z

65

66 wherein W is either a H of the amino terminal NH₂ group of the polypeptide or one or more
67 additional amino acids bonded to the amino terminal NH₂ group of the polypeptide, the
68 additional amino acids being selected to facilitate coupling of the polypeptide to a carrier
69 protein or to a support; X is absent, Cys-Gly-Gly; or Lys-Lys, Y is absent, Cys or one or more
70 amino acids added to facilitate coupling; and Z is OH or NH₂ and wherein amino acids in the
71 sequence may be inserted, deleted and substituted so long as immunoreactivity to antibodies to
72 HIV is retained.

Please cancel claim 15.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application which is a continuation of U.S. application serial number 08/904,826, filed August 1, 1997. By this amendment, claim 15, is hereby cancelled without prejudice to continued prosecution of the subject matter encompassed by the claim in a related copending application. Claims 1, 12, and 14 have been amended to clarify the subject matter claimed. Applicants provide herewith a copy of the substitute specification as filed during the prosecution of the parent application to comply with the Sequence Rules. Further, additional amendments to correct obvious clerical or typographical errors have been made to the specification. No new matter has been added to the substitute specification in making the amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2 May 2000

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